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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 AID-05 PC-01 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 COME-00 /072 W
----------104738 031554Z /43
O 031400Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8332
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SAO PAULO 0629

E.0. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) BR
SUBJ: SAO PAULO PRESS REACTION ON CARTER VISIT

REF: SAO PAULO 0616

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR SAO PAULO NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO GIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN CARDINAL ARNS AND PRESIDENT CARTER. ARTICLES ARE BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH THE CARDINAL AND CURIA SOURCES. ALSO INCLUDED AN INTERVIEW WITH PENTECOSTAL LEADER ABOUT VISIT WITH PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. O ESTADO IN SHORT ARTICLE (PAGE 6) MAKES IT ALL SOUND VERY MYSTERIOUS, ALLEGING THAT THE LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT RAISES A "EXTREMELY GRAVE AND SECRET ISSUE" ACCORDING TO CURIA SOURCES. THE LETTER HAS TWO PARTS: ONE OF THEM SECRET AND"ANY PUBLICITY CONCERNING ITS TENOR COULD HAVE PREJUDICIAL REFLECTIONS ON THE ISSUE WHICH IT DISCUSSES." COMMENT: THIS IS CLEARLY A REFERENCE TO THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE DECEMBER 28 LETTER, SINCE THE ARTICLE CONTINUES BY GIVING A FULL TRANSLATION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE LETTER.
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3. O ESTADO STORY CONTINUES BY ALLEGING THAT TEXT OF LETTER DELIVERED IN FEBRUARY (ACTUALLY JANUARY 10) ALTHOUGH ITS ARRIVAL WAS PRECEDED BY A TELEX. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT TO BRAZIL, SECRETARY VANCE WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE CARDINAL TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE CARDINAL AGREED TO THE PROSPECTIVE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.

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4. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO HAS FULL COLUMN SIGNED ARTICLE BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH CARDINAL ARNS AND MANOEL DE MELLO, LEADER AND FOUNDER SAO PAULO PENTECOSTAL EVENGELICAL CHURCH, BRAZIL FOR CHRIST. ARTICLE ASSERTS PRESIDENT TO MEET NOT ONLY WITH CARDINAL BUT DE MELLO AND "VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION" ON MARCH 30 IN RIO, ALTHOUGH AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED SCHEDULE OF VISIT.

5. CARDINAL ARNS WAS INTERVIEWED AT THE OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BISHOPS IN SAO PAULO AND STATED THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY CONCERNING HIS MEETING BUT READ THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF THE DECEMBER 28 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT. HE DECLINED TO READ THE FIRST PARAGRAPH WHICH HE CONSIDERED "PERSONAL IN NATURE" AND WHICH FOLHA SPECULATES EDITORIALLY IN PARENTHESES "MIGHT BE MATTERS RELATING TO THE SITUATION OF AMERICN CITIZENS IN BRAZIL."

6. ARTICLE GIVES ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF CONSUL GENERAL'S CALL ON CARDINAL ('77 SAO PAULO 2941) TO INVITE CARDINAL TO BRASILIA BUT DOES NOT MENTION CONTENT OF DISCUSSION. CARDINAL WAS UNABLE TO GO BUT SENT A MESSAGE TO SECRETARY. ARTICLE ALSO CORRECTLY STATES THAT DECEMBER 28 LETTER FIRST RECEIVED TELEGRAPHICALLY BY CONGEN AND TRANSMITTED TO CARDINAL WITH SUBSEQUENT CONFIRMATION BY ORIGINAL TEXT.

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7. FOLHA REPORTER INTERVIEWED MANOEL DE MELLO, WHO SAID HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ABOUT A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE DID SAY THAT ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF LATIN AMERICA (WHICH FOLHA DESCRIBES AS AN ECUMENICAL GROUP FORMED BY THE UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES) HAD WRITEN HIM ASKING FOR BIOGRAPHIC DATA AND STATING THAT "PERSONS ON CARTER'S TEAM WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ME". MELLO SPECULATED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO SEE HIM BECAUSE OF MELLO'S DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. FOLHA STATES THAT DE MELLO A FEW YEARS AGO USED THE INFLUENCE OF HIS CHURCH, WHICH NOW BOASTS 100,000 FAITHFUL TO HELP ELECT CERTAIN POLITICIANS AND AS A RESULT WAS ARRESTED BY THE FEDERAL POLICE IN SAO PAULO AND DETAINED FOR THIRTY SIX HOURS. CLOSE FRIENDS ASSURED FOLHA HE HAD CHANGED HIS TACTICS AND NO LONGER ENGAGED IN POLITICS.

"IF I REALLY WERE TO MEET WITH CARTER I WANT FIRST OF ALL TO DENOUCE THE ACTION OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS IN THE THIRD WORLD," DE MELLO SAID. HE WOULD ASK THE PRESIDENT TO USE HIS INFLUENCE ON CONGRESS TO PASS LAWS REQUIRING THAT SUCH FIRMS INVEST HALF OF THEIR PROFITS IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY DO BUSINESS, ALLEGING THAT THEY REPATRIATE 100 PERCENT OF THEIR PROFITS. AFTER DISCUSSING

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THE MULTINATIONALS, WHICH HE ALLEGED ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXERT
PRESSURE ON THE PRESIDENT TO ABANDON HIS HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN,
DE MELLO SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES PER SE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

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9. ACCORDING TO FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, ITAMARATY DENIED KNOWING
ABOUT A MEETING SCHEDULED BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND CARDINAL
ARNS. THE STORY REPEATED EMBASSY STATEMENTS THAT IT KNEW
NOTHING ABOUT A MEETING, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERED IT "PERFECTLY NATURAL",
AND NOTED THAT IT IS NORMAL FOR A PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH REPR-
SENTATIVES OF OPPOSITION. CARTER MEETING WITH MITTERAND WAS
CITED AS AN EXAMPLE.

10. FOLHA ALSO CARRIES PAULO FRANCIS STORY (WHO HAS LARGE FOLLOWING
HERE) DATELINED NEW YORK, HEADLINED "USA KNOWS ALL ABOUT BRAZIL".
FRANCIS STATES THT NO ONE AT STATE DEPARTMENT KNOWS ABOUT CARTER
LETTER TO ARNS, OR THEY ARE ACTING AS IF THEY DID NOT KNOW. HE
REPORTS THAT OFFICIAL VISITORS, IF THEY WISH TO MEET WITH MEMBERS
OF THE OPPOSITION, SHOULD REQUEST PERMISSION OF FOREIGN OFFICE.
"OBVIOUSLY, THIS DID NOT HAPPEN IN THE CASE OF THE CARDINAL."
FRANCIS ATTRIBUTES THIS SITUATION TO CARTER'S INEXPERIENCE IN
DIPLOMACY.

11. HE STATES THAT WASHINGTON REGARDS ARNS AS THE LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION IN BRAZIL, PERHAPS BECAUSE HE IS NOT A POLITICIAN.
FRANCIS CASTS ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AS THE LEADER OF THE
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CONSERVATIVE FACTION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHO IS TRYING
TO DISCOVERS WAYS OF DESCRIBING ARNS AS A TENDENTIOUS
POLITICAL FIGURE. HE GIVES A HIGHLY GARBLED VERSION OF HOW
INTERAGENCY MEMOS ARE PREPARED, EMPHASIZING BUREAUCRATIC INFIGHT-
ING, BUT OBSERVES THAT AMBITIOUS PRESIDENTS BYPASS THIS CUMBERSOME
PROCESS AND STATES, "JIMMY CARTER IS AN AMBITIOUS PRESIDENT."

12. HERE IS FLAVOR OF FRANCIS ARTICLE ON PLANNING FOR TRIP" "IT
IS WITH A CERTAIN TEDIUM THAT I REPEAT THAT NOTHING, I EMPHASIZE,
NOTHING THAT HAPPENS IN BRAZIL IS UNKNOWN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT,
OR MORE IMPORTANT, TO THE US NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. THE OTHER
DAY, A MEMBER O THIS COUNCIL PRESENTED ME WITH A MINUTE
DESCRIPTION OF THE POSITION OF VARIOUS BRAZILIAN GENERALS, MANY
OF WHOM I DO NOT KNOW EVEN BY NAME (I HAVE BEEN OUT OF
BRAZIL ALMOST SEVEN YEARS), ON THE CHOICE OF JOAO BAPTISTA
FIGUEIREDO AS THE SUCCESSOR OF PRESIDENT GEISEL.

13. THEREFORE, THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN
CARTER AND THE CARDINAL WILL RESULT IN "PROPAGANDA AGAINST BRAZIL".
IF THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO MEET WITH DOM PAULO EVARISTO IT IS TO
EXPRESS HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSES WHICH THE PRELATE
DEFENDS, ALL, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, REQUIRING THE RESPECT OF
SIGNATORIES TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER."
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